

# Your Hot Tub/Spa and *Legionella*



*Legionella* are bacteria that can cause a serious lung infection called Legionnaires' disease. *Legionella* bacteria grow naturally in water and especially in warm water.



**Hot tubs** that are not cleaned and disinfected properly can become contaminated with *Legionella*. People can get infected with *Legionella* if they inhale steam or mist from a contaminated hot tub.

## Make sure your hot tub is maintained and properly disinfected

To prevent the growth and spread of bacteria like *Legionella* in your hot tub, perform these activities regularly:

**Check disinfectant and pH levels**

To learn more about recommended test kits and proper disinfection, visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/disinfection-testing.html>

Remember to check levels more often when the hot tub is being used by a lot of people

**Remove slime or biofilm** by scrubbing and cleaning

**Replace the hot tub water filter** according to manufacturer's recommendations

**Replace the hot tub water**



The number of people with Legionnaire's disease in Tennessee and in the United States has increased since 2000. In 2017, over **200 people in Tennessee** were diagnosed with **Legionnaire's disease** and **6% used a hot tub** during the time they could have become infected.



To learn more about care of your hot tub, visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/index.html>

To learn more about *Legionella*, visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html>

Please contact the Tennessee Department of Health with questions or concerns: [Legionella.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Legionella.Health@tn.gov)



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